

JULY

AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

JULY MEETINGS

Dates & Times: Matinee, 2:30 p.m., Wednesday
July 18

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday
and Thursday, July 18-19

Place: May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker: Joseph A. Robinson

Subject: "MOTORING TO THE MIDNIGHT
SUN (To the North Cape with the
Top Down)"

With his two previous appearances before the membership, Mr. Robinson finds himself with a built-in audience that enjoys sharing his off-beat excursions to remote places on this globe of ours.

On this occasion, it is a motoring trip of some 1,350 miles up the Norwegian coast to the very tip of the European continent and Mr. Robinson was accumulating 35mm color slides all along the way. There are visits to port cities that one usually only sees from cruise ships — Trondheim, Tromsø, Hammarfest, and of course the North Cape itself. But here also we have close and intimate looks at local color — tiny farms, lovely Scandinavian landscapes — illuminating a little-traveled country where land divides and water connects.

Those who recall Mr. Robinson's earlier lectures on Central Asia and on Siberia will anticipate a varied look at the people, their settlements, not to mention the spectacular mountains and fjords caught in the Arctic stillness of this world without summer darkness or winter light.

Mr. Robinson is a successful management consultant in San Francisco with a special flair for both the camera and the lectern.

Three presentations as indicated and your membership card will admit you through the main entrance of Cowell Hall. At the matinee performance you will be asked to show it once again at the auditorium entrance.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"COSMIC EVOLUTION" is the attraction in the Theatre of the Stars through September 9. A wide-ranging look at our universe and how our concepts of it change with the passage of time. Summer schedule of performances: Daily at 12:30, 2:00, 3:30 and 8:00 p.m. Extra shows late afternoons on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Admission is one dollar for adults and half-price for those 17 and under.

MORRISON AUDITORIUM

"SATURDAY WILDLIFE THEATRE SERIES". Free movies every Saturday afternoon through September 1. The performance at 12:45 is reserved for Academy members and their guests. The two following showings at 2:15 and 3:45 will be open to the general public (no admission charge) and are also available to members. Two half-hour films included in each program.

July 7: DOWN UNDER IN AUSTRALIA

July 14: LET'S GO TO CANADA!

July 21: DOWN TO THE BRINY DEEP

July 28: SOUTH AMERICAN WAY

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"CETACEA", a major Academy exhibit and one of the most arresting in recent history. Models, skeletons, artifacts, photographs and extensive text devoted to whales, dolphins and porpoises — and an eye-opener it is. Continues in Cowell Hall indefinitely.

"NANCY BECHTEL'S SAFARI CAMERA", an exhibition of forty color photographs of East African animals, people and plants. Also artifacts from this fascinating continent. In Hohfeld Gallery through October.

"NATURE ABSTRACTIONS", a repeat showing of the arresting black-and-white photographic enlargements by Staff Photographer Lloyd Ullberg. Lower Gallery, Cowell Hall.

"MAN AND NATURE (As interpreted by the Indians of North America)" continues in Lovell White Hall.

NEW PERMANENT EXHIBIT

"THE GEM ROOM", located at the entrance to the Hall of Minerals. Against a background of black velvet, scarlet carpeting and mirrored walls — 51 specimens of natural treasures of the earth, 28 carved orbs of many minerals, and 9 faceted stones whose total carats would cause a jeweler to reflect. The major portion of the items seen have been donated by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis K. Land. Others who have given individual items are Victor J. ("Trader Vic") Bergeron, C. J. Frasline, Edward R. Swoboda and Jerry Wentling. This is basically a permanent display but there will be augmentations and changes from time to time.

DON'T FORGET THAT THE ACADEMY
WILL BE OPEN IN THE EVENINGS
UNTIL NINE O'CLOCK THROUGH
LABOR DAY, SEPT. 3

News and Notes

Dr. Ian Campbell,

President of the Academy, was the happy recipient of the Public Service Award given annually by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. The meeting took place May 15 at Anaheim, California. The plaque awarded Dr. Campbell was "for dedicated achievement by a geologist in distinguished public service." The AAPG is the largest organized group of geologists in the world, numbering some 14,000.

Because of its fine success last spring, a second course in taxidermy will be offered this autumn. Beginning Sept. 15 and extend-

ing through Nov. 3 members (only) can learn how to collect, skin, preserve and mount vertebrate animals. The course will include lectures, demonstrations and the techniques involved in preserving not only animals but also plant and other specimens.

As it was before, the unique course will be under the guidance of Mr. Fred Funk of the Department of Exhibits and will be held on Saturdays from nine until noon. If the registrants exceed 25 there is again the possibility of there being a second session held on Thursday evenings from seven to ten. The fee for the course is \$25.00 and the materials involved for each student include clipboard, paper and pen. For further information telephone or mail your request to Mr. Funk at the Academy.

Dr. A. Starker Leopold,

Past President of the Academy and a Trustee since 1959, has been appointed by President Nixon to the new three-man Marine Mammal Commission which was created under Public Law 92-522 by the 92nd Congress, October 21, 1972.

Dr. Leopold, with two other distinguished scientists, Dr. Victor B. Scheffer and Dr. John H. Ryther, comprise the commission that will gather pertinent data and make recommendations on the conservation and protection of marine mammals to the proper Departments of government, namely Interior, Commerce and State. The commission itself will have a scientific advisory board of nine members, all experts in this noteworthy, newsworthy field.

In September 1971, Dr. Dennis E. Breedlove, Associate Curator in the Department of Botany, gathered together his wife and four children (ages 8-12) and set out for Mexico and a small highland town, San Cristobal de Las Casas. It was the first step in his preparation of a flora of the southern Mexican State of Chiapas which was made possible by a National Science Foundation grant to the California Academy of Sciences. There was urgency in this botanical survey because of the unique tropical cloud forests in the area, as well as other regions, which — because of 'progress' — are rapidly disappearing.

The Breedloves settled into a commodious house, the children were enrolled in local schools, and Dennis embarked on his work.

He established a secondary station in Ocozacoautla de Espinosa in the lowlands. He hired Tzeltal Indians as assistants in collecting (he speaks their language) and began working the entire State, moving about in remote areas and spending weeks on far-removed trails. The upshot — 21 months later — is a collection of 80,000 botanical specimens, an impressive figure, but according to Dennis, only a "dent" in the flora available. The family returned to San Francisco in mid-June.

The next step in this long project is to identify and catalogue this botanical harvest which will take at least two years. While in Mexico, Dr. Breedlove collected invertebrates and insects to share with CAS departments.

We are making preliminary plans to expand our adult educational activities during both day and evening hours at the Academy. Since this program is being developed with the membership particularly in mind, we would appreciate any suggestions that individual members might have — what sort of courses could be offered and related thoughts. If you have any, please convey them either by note or telephone to Miss Lysbeth Fritz — 221-5100.

Though the response to the paragraphs in the May NEWSLETTER about the Docent Council's fall plans has been gratifying — we would like to add some fuel to the flames. Thus, we'll repeat the information in the hope that it will get to you.

This autumn, beginning September 19, the Council will offer a comprehensive basic course of training — the best yet. The expanded curriculum, extending over twenty weekly sessions, will include the animals and ecology of all the dioramas in North American Bird and Mammal Halls and Simson African Hall. When it is completed, the enrollee will be able to lead interpretive, well-grounded tours in the areas for student groups and other visitors.

Academy staff members are the instructors. Student applicants will be interviewed prior to enrollment and CAS membership is a prerequisite. An enrollment fee is charged and college credit may be earned. Please telephone the Docent Office, nine to five, Monday through Friday, at 221-5100, for further information.

MEET THE STAFF



ROBERT X. SCHICK, Assistant Curator in the Department of Entomology, spent his youthful years in New York City, a portion of it attending, as he calls, "The Bronx High School of Sinus" (read 'Science'). His family removed itself to Los Angeles when he was 17. After finishing high school came the inevitable: 18 months as a Medical Corpsman in the Army Air Force. Upon discharge, he attended Los Angeles City College and received an A.A. degree in Music. He had hoped to become a composer but changed his mind, proceeded to the University of California at Los Angeles and gained both a B.A. and a Ph.D. in Zoology. His doctoral dissertation was "The Crab Spiders of California". During these years, an interest in botany cropped up but it eventually was entomology that became the #1 choice for a scientific career.

From 1960-1963, he was an Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at San Francisco State College. This was followed (1963-1970) as an Assistant Research Zoologist with the Public Health Service and an Army-supported project, "The Mosquitoes of Middle America" conducted at U.C.L.A. From 1970 until his arrival at the Academy in July of last year, Dr. Schick was employed as a Lecturer in Biology and Zoology at California State College in Los Angeles.

His job in the CAS' Department of Entomology finds him as "Alcoholic Curator" for arachnids, myriapods and various insects in the ever-burgeoning collections — among the fastest growing in the Academy.

His wife, Aiko, has presented him with two daughters, Andrea and Anita, young ladies of 17 and 11. In the past, Dr. Schick has grown cacti and composed music (which he hopes to

MEET THE STAFF — Continued

resume once there is a piano on the premises). His personal research projects are the reproductive isolation and taxonomy of crab spiders.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

REGULAR MEMBERS

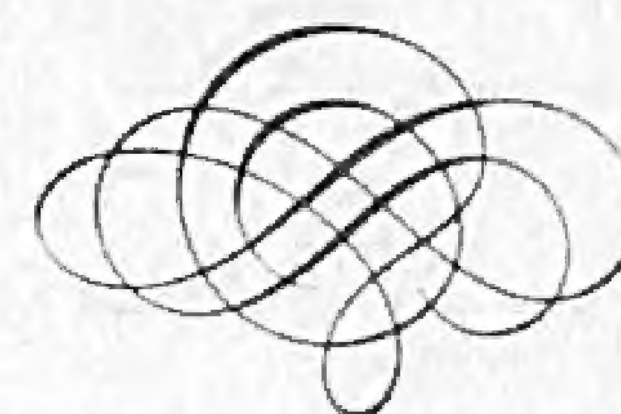
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